

Thirty-seventh Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
of  
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1952 - - 1953

Offices

848 NORTH HOWARD STREET

Baltimore-1, Maryland

785749

Thirty-seventh Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
OF  
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1952--1953

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SYDNEY R. TRAUB  
Chairman

MAUDE B. DORRANCE  
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

WALTER S. RINGLER  
Secretary

ELMER P. BUTZ  
Administrative Assistant

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Offices

848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore-1, Maryland

HONORABLE THEODORE R. MCKELDIN  
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Dear Governor McKeldin:

Another year of official work has been completed, and in pursuance of Article 66A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title: "Moving Pictures," we are now transmitting to you a report of the business and proceedings of the State Board of Motion Picture Censors during the fiscal period ending June 30, 1953, the same being the Thirty-seventh Annual Report since the establishment of the Board in 1916. Details of the number of films examined and the action taken together with an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements will be found in the report.

**GENERAL STATEMENT**

A review of the work of the year compared with the previous year shows *no* improvement in the moral quality of films submitted for censorship. Many of them emphasized crime and marital infidelity, seduction and betrayal of girls, illicit love, gangster and underworld life. Trashy sex-dramas, accompanied by so-called health or clinical films, the products of sources ever seeking to capitalize on human weaknesses, likewise made their appearance before the Board. No effort will be spared to keep these clinical films from being exhibited in this State. Supporting this vital objective are the Maryland State and Baltimore City Departments of Health and Public Education.

**WORK OF THE BOARD**

The Board reviewed 2,172 original subjects, comprising 8,300 reels or 6,681,398 feet of film. In addition, 50,542,990 feet of duplicate films passed through the office.

Deletions were ordered in 15 pictures of American producers bound by the Hollywood Production Code, 14 pictures of American so-called independent producers not bound by the Hollywood Production Code, and 21 pictures of foreign and independent producers not bound by the Hollywood Production Code, or a grand total of 50 pictures. One feature picture and a series of clinical films were rejected outright. In each of these instances, the decision of the Board has been appealed to the Baltimore City Court.

In a number of other pictures, offensive scenes and dialogue were removed before submission, therefore, showing the overall effect of the existence of the Board on the Industry.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board's total receipts from fees required by the law for its examination of films were \$75,530.00, or \$6,813.00 less than that received during the previous year. This decrease is attributable to the development and processing of new screen techniques by major film-producing companies. As a consequence, their output of pictures to the public was considerably less than in the preceding year.

Ever since its inception, the Board has not only been *self-supporting*, but has netted a surplus of \$551,303.15 to the State Treasury.

## INSPECTIONS

Employees of the Board made a total of 4,547 inspections of Maryland theatres during the year. Their duty is to follow-up and report all violations of the film statute and to check on compliance with Board orders. Numerous duplicate prints of approved pictures were found being exhibited without the Board's required approval seal and perforation. This condition was forcefully brought to the attention of the principal sources of film supply to Maryland theatres, and marked improvement has resulted.

## PROSECUTIONS

The Board recently learned that an obscene and uncensored strip-tease motion picture was given a single midnight display at a drive-in theatre at McCool, Maryland, on April 25, 1953.

A personal and joint investigation by Hon. Paul M. Fletcher, State's Attorney for Allegany County, and the Board's chairman developed that a film trader, a storage warehouse concern, and an express company, all of Washington, D. C., were responsible for the leasing and shipment of the picture to the theatre.

Because of the determined and high-minded course of Mr. Fletcher, the film trader has signified his readiness to appear before a Cumberland magistrate and plead guilty. The remaining parties have been duly notified that unless they come into Maryland and answer the charges, proceedings will be instituted for their arrest and extradition.

## CONCLUSION

The Board desires to express its gratitude for your Excellency's co-operative spirit, which has time and again taken form of positive and beneficial action.

Respectfully submitted,

SYDNEY R. TRAUB, Chairman

MAUDE B. DORRANCE, Vice-Chairman

WALTER S. RINGLER, Secretary

August 31, 1953

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1953**

**Receipts**

**Fees:**

Original Reels -		
35 MM (6,533,519 ft.)	\$14,768.00	
16 MM ( 147,504 ft.)	796.00	
16 MM ( 375 ft.)	4.00	
(Reversible)		\$15,568.00
Duplicate Reels -		
35 MM (50,542,990 ft.)	\$57,836.00	
16 MM		
16 MM		
(Reversible)		\$57,836.00
Sale of Substitute Seals		
(2,126).....	2,126.00	
		\$75,530.00
Deposited to Credit of State		
Treasurer.....		\$75,530.00

**Expenses**

**Salaries:**

Board Members.....	\$ 8,636.95	
Other Employees.....	38,592.04	
		\$47,228.99

**Other Expenses:**

Repairs.....	\$ 77.10	
Motor Vehicle Repairs.....	98.52	
Light, Heat Power and Water	325.56	
Traveling.....	1,190.49	
Communication.....	680.12	
Printing.....	176.84	
Contractual, Film Seals.....	3,746.89	
RCA Inspection Service.....	329.16	
Office Supplies.....	974.82	
Motor Vehicle Supplies.....	339.65	
Motion Picture Machine Sup-		
plies.....	268.47	
Office Equipment.....	287.50	
Motion Picture Machine		
Equipment.....	65.00	
Insurance.....	63.98	
		\$ 8,624.10
		\$55,853.09

**Budget Account (Per Comptroller)**

Appropriation, 1953.....	\$59,545.00	
		\$59,545.00
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund..	3,691.91	
		\$55,853.09
General Fund Disbursement.....		

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

## TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920 - June 30, 1953

	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT REVERTING TO STATE TREASURY
10-1-20 to 9-30-21	\$ 26,488 .33	\$ 19,025 .26	\$ 7,463 .07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22	26,866 .90	19,842 .12	7,024 .78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23	27,059 .51	19,892 .93	7,166 .58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24	26,338 .50	20,730 .44	5,608 .06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25	29,249 .50	22,207 .24	7,042 .26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26	30,207 .92	22,662 .82	7,545 .10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27	32,498 .55	24,883 .80	7,614 .75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28	38,165 .57	27,734 .69	10,430 .88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29	44,486 .27	32,937 .76	11,548 .51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30	38,954 .98	31,718 .26	7,236 .72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31	35,245 .85	31,816 .79	3,429 .06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32	35,637 .44	32,158 .81	3,478 .63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33	35,152 .34	34,207 .93	944 .41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34	36,563 .00	27,174 .49	9,388 .51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35	39,463 .00	27,577 .76	11,885 .24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36	44,073 .00	28,927 .98	15,145 .02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37	49,293 .00	28,855 .10	20,437 .90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38	48,659 .00	30,197 .34	18,461 .66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39	50,180 .00	30,302 .92	19,877 .08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40	53,180 .00	29,598 .72	23,581 .28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41	55,877 .00	30,347 .18	25,529 .82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42	55,561 .00	31,135 .92	24,425 .08
10-1-42 to 9-30-43	39,828 .00	22,578 .29	17,249 .71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44	55,585 .00	35,112 .59	20,472 .41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45	55,054 .00	35,090 .08	19,963 .92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46	59,396 .00	35,802 .90	23,593 .10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47	65,961 .00	42,150 .48	23,810 .52
7-1-47 to 6-30-48	72,832 .00	44,814 .74	28,017 .26
7-1-48 to 6-30-49	78,606 .00	47,468 .24	31,137 .76
7-1-49 to 6-30-50	82,328 .00	48,565 .63	33,762 .37
7-1-50 to 6-30-51	79,885 .00	47,689 .30	32,195 .70
7-1-51 to 6-30-52	82,343 .00	55,671 .29	26,671 .71
7-1-52 to 6-30-53	75,530 .00	55,853 .09	19,676 .91
	\$1,606,548 .66	\$1,074,732 .89	*\$531,815 .77

\*The above amount reverting to State Treasury does not include \$19,487.38 for period 6-1-16 to 9-30-20.

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS**

**July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953**

1952	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July.....	446	168	810	95	4	57
August.....	509	183	817	119	4	13
September.....	510	175	720	156	9	7
October.....	608	249	901	166	12	3
November.....	451	143	718	101	11	2
December.....	488	187	804	134	19	4
<b>1953</b>						
January.....	417	162	814	121	13	8
February.....	456	178	726	102	9	7
March.....	606	236	729	102	16	1
April.....	568	158	814	122	8	....
May.....	496	160	812	149	28	1
June.....	495	178	703	158	12	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>9,368</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>107</b>

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Films, Original	2,172			
Films, Duplicate	17,200			
Reels, Original		8,300		
Reels, Duplicate		64,146		
Number of Feet, Original			6,681,398	
Number of Feet, Duplicate			50,542,990	
Films Approved				19,178
Films Rejected				1
Films Eliminated				193
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,372</b>	<b>72,446</b>	<b>57,224,388</b>	<b>19,372</b>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS  
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED  
July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953

1952	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Ft. Original	No. of Ft. Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Elim- inated
July	158	1,422	550	4,874	437,133	3,868,858	1,572	---	8
August	183	1,462	807	5,138	651,188	4,026,018	1,630	---	15
September	170	1,407	738	5,501	598,712	4,398,578	1,555	---	22
October	224	1,715	893	6,419	702,578	5,074,958	1,914	---	25
November	154	1,272	610	4,987	490,822	3,922,591	1,420	---	6
December	182	1,454	634	5,276	507,165	4,187,935	1,622	---	14
1953									
January	159	1,376	525	4,775	425,178	3,675,794	1,517	---	18
February	181	1,297	720	4,729	564,496	3,689,531	1,460	---	18
March	210	1,480	886	6,002	724,324	4,727,609	1,685	---	5
April	192	1,478	702	6,018	566,682	4,782,446	1,652	---	18
May	190	1,456	638	5,190	539,301	4,090,373	1,621	---	25
June	169	1,381	597	5,237	473,819	4,098,299	1,531	1	19
Totals	2,172	17,200	8,300	64,146	6,681,398	50,542,990	19,178	1	193